

Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by David Mathisen



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013015>

Collection Summary

Title: Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers

Span Dates: 1918-1942

ID No.: MSS24049

Creator: Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950

Extent: 1,000 items ; 2 containers plus 1 oversize ; .8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Musician, inventor, and author. Correspondence, speeches, legal and financial records, draft of a book, biographical data, printed matter, and annotated photographs primarily relating to Greenewalt's invention of an art form called Nourathar (also Sarabet, Light-Score) that harmonized projected patterns of colored light with concert music.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950.

Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950. Nourathar, the fine art of light color playing. 1946.

Organizations

Busser & Harding--Correspondence.

Howson & Howson--Correspondence.

Subjects

Music and color.

Music.

Occupations

Authors.

Inventors.

Musicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt, musician, inventor, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Greenewalt from 1941 to 1943.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1871, Sept. 8	Born, Beirut, Lebanon, then part of Syria
1882	Arrived in Philadelphia, Pa.
1893	Graduated, Philadelphia Musical Academy, Philadelphia, Pa.
1897	Studied piano with Theodore Leschetizky, Vienna, Austria
1898	Married Frank L. Greenewalt
1905	Began investigation of how gradated colored lighting might enhance the emotional expression of music
1918	Published <i>Light: Fine Art the Sixth; A Running Nomenclature to Underly the Use of Light as a Fine Art</i> . Philadelphia: Westbrook Publishing Co. Filed her first patent, "Illuminating Means"
1920	Columbia records released her performance of Chopin's <i>Preludes in E Minor, C minor, A Major</i> and <i>Nocturne in G Major</i>
1920-1934	Sued for and won infringement of patent cases relating to her invention of a color organ device named "Sarabet" after her mother
1946	Published <i>Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing</i> . Philadelphia: Westbrook Publishing Co.
1950, Nov. 26	Died, Wilmington, Del.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt (1871-1950) span the years 1918-1942 and relate primarily relating to Greenewalt's invention of an art form called Nourathar (also Sarabet, Light-Score) that harmonized projected patterns of colored light with concert music. Included in the collection are correspondence, speeches, legal and financial records, drafts of her book *Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing*, biographical data, printed matter, and annotated photographs. Correspondents include Greenewalt's attorneys in Philadelphia, Howson & Howson and Busser & Harding, and various government agencies.

Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1918-1942, undated (12 folders)
BOX 1	Speeches, 1935-1941
BOX 1	Financial papers, circa 1918-1941
BOX 1	Patent and copyright material, 1918-1931, undated
BOX 1	Agreements, annotated photographs, notes, biographical material, etc.
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	<i>Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing</i>
BOX 2	First draft, Oct. 1939
BOX 2	Drafts, 1940
BOX 2	Mimeograph copy, 1942
BOX 2	Book draft
BOX 2	Notebook
BOX 2	"Biggest Steal of the Ages"
BOX 2	"The Inventor Lets a Few Cats Out of the Bag," draft
BOX 2	Printed matter
BOX 2	Clippings, with folio of newspapers and carbon copy of an article